

DETERMINING THE PROFESSIONAL TENDENCY OF STUDENTS WHO STUDY AT SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT

One of the most important functions of guidance services within the training process is to direct the students to the appropriate professions in line with their interests, tendencies and needs. One of the main objectives of primary education is to direct students to schools that are suitable for the profession they will choose by recognizing their professions. The main aim of the vocational guidance activities to be carried out in high school is to determine in which areas the students have abilities, not exactly which profession they will choose. The main aim of the guidance services to be done should be to make the student know himself and make realistic preferences. Most people are unaware of what areas they are interested in before they start to a work or an occupation. As long as people live and specialize, they learn about their own interests. Various methods are used to measure students' interests. One of them is to use inventories and the other one is to ask the area where the student is directly interested. However, direct inquiries of student interest may not yield very healthy results. This is because, rather than their interests, the student has a tendency towards interests of the community and occupations that are considered prestigious in society. Many inventories are used to determine occupational trends. In this study, "Occupational Tendency Determination Scale" was applied to 650 students studying at Meram Science High School, Selcuklu Science High School and Karatay Science High School in Konya. It has been determined that students predominantly tend to have three professions. These are group C (law, political science, business etc.), group H (doctor, pharmacist, dentist etc.) and group J (computer, construction, electrical-electronics and industrial engineering etc.).

KEYWORDS: Science High School, Occupational Trend, Career Choice.

INTRODUCTION

Even though technological developments that have been taking place today have affected human life positively, they have brought some problems together. Individuals who are very interested in technology and who devote too much time to technology have many problems in their social relationships. Individuals with inadequate social relations generally have a negative impact on people's perception of the environment, and in particular limit the ability of individuals to identify themselves. Individuals who are unable to recognize themselves are expected to have difficulty in choosing their own profession [1,2,3]. Today, technological developments have led to an increase in the number of professions. The development of societies is related to the training of individuals who can make healthy decisions. The fact that individuals can make a healthy career decision requires a good knowledge of the relevant field. The choice of profession is one of the most important events that will enable individuals to be successful and happy in their life after a certain age [4]. One of the most important elements of education is evaluation of developments on students. Student development evaluations are usually conducted in the form of exams, performance evaluations, projects and assignments to monitor academic progress. Because primary and secondary education in our country is focused on exams, students are usually trained as individuals who memorize knowledge and accept it without questioning. When students graduate from high school, they leave the choice of profession as a coincidence because of different reasons. Kuzgun (1988) has stated that when students graduate from high school, they will be indecisive in choosing a career, and have difficulty in choosing a career to pass all their lives [5]. Today, it can be said that this situation has not changed much [6,7].

People make various choices throughout their lives. One of the most important of these choices is the choice of profession. The choice of profession also has a certain level of influence on who we will marry, our worldview, daily life style and habits. Choosing their occupation for individuals also means to choose their life styles. Individuals take responsibility for their choice during their youth and adopt an adult role to make choices [8, 9].

Choice a profession is the tendency of someone towards he/she believes that will provide adequate satisfaction with activities and he/she thinks he can do best among the various professions [5].

Today, there are many factors that influence career choice. Kuzgun (2004) considers the factors influencing career choice in two groups as psychological and social factors [10]. According to Yeşilyaprak (2006), there are some psychosocial factors on the basis of having a profession and a job. The choice of a person is a long marathon that starts from childhood and consists of information about himself and his professions [11, 9, 2, 12]. The choice of profession is called as

choosing one among the professions preferred by the individual and the effort of the individual to have this profession. The individual who is in the election stage can make the right decision for himself; but it is possible for the individual to be aware of his or her own abilities and knowledge and to receive vocational guidance services about how to use these characteristics. However, it cannot be said that this vocational guidance is given enough [13, 14].

One of the most important problems in education in developing countries is the ambiguity of the students who come to the university stage in their occupational choices. Because the young population cannot be guided in choosing a career, students cannot plan their career appropriately. This ambiguity creates negative situations in the production of qualified labor in the future life of students [15].

In our country, students face shortcomings in making the right decision based on the problems arising from the inadequacy in planning occupational choices. One of the most important reasons for this is that students are exposed to external interventions while choosing their profession. Students need professional guidance in their future professions and their deliveries in the course of their research for career choices. This support is mainly provided by the school guidance unit, branch teachers and school administrators. Partly, they can also be guided by their parents and acquaintances. Lately, many universities have conducted introductory studies at national level through television and print publications, helping students to identify their professions [16, 17]. While many students make choices in the direction of their goals when they start high school, some of the students play a role of reasserting them and choose the role of profession that they do not have the knowledge but the external community (family, friends, etc.) has installed on them. Some students leave their vocational preferences after high school and make choices according to the university scores they have taken instead of their profession and ability[15].

The choice of profession is at the top of the issues that need to be considered in planning an individual's career. The career planning that the individual will have according to his own interests and abilities will directly affect his life. Choosing a career that directly affects an individual's life is very difficult and complex [G]. People make many decisions that concern themselves throughout life. Career choice is among the decisions people have to make. While many students are able to make this decision easily, some students have difficulty in making this decision and need professional guidance. For students who are struggling to make decisions, professional counseling should be done to resolve the problem, which is defined as the determination of the profession and the career ambiguity [18, 19]. Individuals faced with decision making use different strategies [3, 20. Choosing a career is a complicated and long-lasting process. Determination of decision-making strategies for adolescents may be influential in the planning of

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the occupational selection of students. As individuals decide, they will consider their wishes and decide on the option that they like. Students who know themselves and have sufficient knowledge about the profession carefully examine the options and assess the positive and negative aspects of each situation. Undecided individuals who do not have enough knowledge about occupations are not satisfied with the decision they make and try to change it but dependent individuals give importance to others' suggestions and believe that other people know the truth. In our country the vocational choices of high school students before university exams are made as a result of popular occupations and professional qualification examinations. (KPSS etc.).

It is overlooked whether these career choices comply with their own abilities and their professional values [21]. The purpose of this research is to determine the professional tendencies of Meram Science High School, Selcuklu Science High School and Karatay Science High School students located in the districts of Konya Province.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The survey method was used in the study. survey methods are research approaches that aim to describe the past or present situation as it exists [22]. The aim of this research is to determine the occupational tendencies of the students in the science high schools in the central districts of Konya province.

Working Universe:

Meram Science High School, Selçuklu Science High School and Karatay Science High School in Konya province were selected as universes. Since the group at the stage can be reached, no sample selection has been made. The study universe consists of 650 students.

Data Collection Tools:

The "Occupational Tendency Determination Scale" [23, 24] consisting of 160 items was applied to the students who constitute the universe. This scale is applicable to secondary school and high school students. 160 items are evaluated in 10 groups of 16 items each. These ten groups constitute various professional fields. If the number of items selected in each 16-item group is between 13-16, the occupations in this group are appropriate for the students, 10-12 is normal, 8-9 is that they have an interest, but they need to think once more, and if it is between 4 and 7, it means the interest is not sufficient enough, and between 0 and 3 means that there is no interest.

Collection and Evaluation of Data:

The research was carried out between 16 and 23 February 2018. Percentage and frequency were used in the analysis of the data. 650 students participated in the survey. Data from students were collected face to face with the "Occupational Tendency Determination Scale". The data were transferred to the Excel and statistical studies were carried out using percent and frequency in the analysis of the data. For the students who did not respond at all to the profession group (0 options) and those who had 1-3 options, the profession was not suitable for them, 4-9 options could be suitable with adequate vocational guidance and 10-16 options would be appropriate. When the answers given by the students are examined, it is seen that they mostly concentrate in the 3 groups. These are group C (law, political science, business etc.), group H (doctor, pharmacist, dentist etc.) and group J (computer, construction, electrical-electronics, industrial engineering etc.).

FINDINGS:

"Occupational Tendency Determination Scale" categorized occupations in 10 groups. These are grouped between group A and group J. Results for each profession group are given below.

Analysis of Group A Professions:

The frequency and percentage of the answers given by the students for group A are shown in Table-1. 5.54% of the students stated that the professions of group A are suitable for them, 41.08% of the students stated that the professions might be suitable and 53.38% stated that the group A professions would not be suitable for them.

Table 1: Analysis results for group A professions

A	13-16	10-12	8-9	4-7	0-3	0
f	6	30	43	224	280	67
%	0,92	4,62	6,62	34,46	43,07	10,31

Analysis of Group B Professions:

The frequency and percentage of the answers given by the students for group B occupation category are shown in Table-2. 6.62% of the students stated that the professions of group B are suitable for them, 42.31% of the students stated that the professions might be suitable and 51.07% stated that the group B professions would not be suitable for them.

Table 2: Analysis results for group B professions

В	13-16	10-12	8-9	4-7	0-3	0
f	7	36	47	228	284	48
%	1,08	5,54	7,23	35,08	43,69	7,38

Analysis of Group C Professions:

The frequency and percentage of the answers given by the students for group C occupation category are shown in Table-3. 15.09% of the students stated that the professions of group C are suitable for them, 60.76% of the students stated that the professions might be suitable and 24.15% stated that the group C professions would not be suitable for them.

Table 3: Analysis results for group C professions

C	13-16	10-12	8-9	4-7	0-3	0
f	20	78	113	282	128	29
%	3,09	12,00	17,38	43,38	19,69	4,46

Analysis of Group D Professions:

The frequency and percentage of the answers given by the students for group D occupation category are shown in Table-4. 14.31% of the students stated that the professions of group D are suitable for them, 46.15% of the students stated that the professions might be suitable and 39.54% stated that the group D professions would not be suitable for them.

Table 4: Analysis results for group D professions

D	13-16	10-12	8-9	4-7	0-3	0
f	24	69	96	204	214	43
%	3,69	10,62	14,77	31,38	32,92	6,62

Analysis of Group E Professions:

The frequency and percentage of the answers given by the students for group E occupation category are shown in Table-5. 14.77% of the students stated that the professions of group E are suitable for them, 51.69% of the students stated that the professions might be suitable and 33.54% stated that the group E professions would not be suitable for them.

Table 5: Analysis results for group E professions

E	13-16	10-12	8-9	4-7	0-3	0
f	27	69	76	273	171	34
%	4,15	10,62	10,69	41,00	28,31	5,23

Analysis of Group F Professions:

The frequency and percentage of the answers given by the students for group F occupation category are shown in Table-6. 7.54% of the students stated that the professions of group F are suitable for them, 52.46% of the students stated that the professions might be suitable and 40.00% stated that the group F professions would not be suitable for them

Table 6: Analysis results for group F professions

F	13-16	10-12	8-9	4-7	0-3	0
f	12	37	66	275	204	56
%	1,85	5,69	10,15	42,31	31,38	8,62

Analysis of Group G Professions:

The frequency and percentage of the answers given by the students for group G occupation category are shown in Table-7. 12.15% of the students stated that the professions of group G are suitable for them, 56.47% of the students stated that the professions might be suitable and 31.38% stated that the group G professions would not be suitable for them.

Table 7: Analysis results for group G professions

G	13-16	10-12	8-9	4-7	0-3	0
f	14	65	116	251	174	30
%	2,15	10,00	17,85	38,62	26,76	4,62

Analysis of Group H Professions:

The frequency and percentage of the answers given by the students for group H occupation category are shown in Table-8. 15.23% of the students stated that the professions of group H are suitable for them, 54.00% of the students stated that the professions might be suitable and 30.77% stated that the group H professions would not be suitable for them.

Table 8: Analysis results for group H professions

Н	13-16	10-12	8-9	4-7	0-3	0
f	25	74	82	269	164	36
%	3,85	11,38	12,62	41,38	25,23	5,54

Analysis of Group I Professions:

The frequency and percentage of the answers given by the students for group I occupation category are shown in Table-9. 6.93% of the students stated that the professions of group I are suitable for them, 50.46% of the students stated that the professions might be suitable and 42.61% stated that the group I professions would not be suitable for them.

Table 9: Analysis results for group I professions

I	13-16	10-12	8-9	4-7	0-3	0
f	13	32	42	286	235	42
%	2,01	4,92	6,46	44,00	36,15	6,46

Analysis of Group J Professions:

The frequency and percentage of the answers given by the students for group J occupation category are shown in Table-10. 25.85% of the students stated that the professions of group J are suitable for them, 48.46% of the students stated that the professions might be suitable and 25.69% stated that the group J professions would not be suitable for them.

Table 10: Analysis results for group J professions

J	13-16	10-12	8-9	4-7	0-3	0
f	55	113	89	226	140	27
%	8,46	17,39	13,69	34,77	21,54	4,15

The frequency distribution of answers given by all occupational groups and students to these occupational groups is shown in Table-11.

Table-11 shows the distribution of the answers given by the students to 160 questions on the scale according to occupational groups.

Table 11: Results of general analysis for occupational groups

	13-16	10-12	8-9	4-7	0-3	0
A	6	30	43	224	280	67
В	7	36	47	228	284	48
С	20	78	113	282	128	29
D	24	69	96	204	214	43
Е	27	69	76	273	171	34
F	12	37	66	275	204	56
G	14	65	116	251	174	30
Н	25	74	82	269	164	36
I	13	32	42	286	235	42
J	55	113	89	226	140	27

In Table 12, students' dissatisfaction with these occupational groups has been shown as a percentage of their suitability and appropriateness with vocational guidance. Students see J group professions as the most appropriate profession group. 25.85% of the students stated that the choice of J group occupation (engineering group of computer, electric electronics, industry, aircraft engineering etc.) is suitable for them. This is followed by occupation of H group (doctor, pharmacist, dentist, etc. health group) with 15,23%. The third group of professions that students perceive as suitable for them are the professions of group C (judges, prosecutors, lawyers etc. law group) with 15,09%.

Occupational groups that pupils can choose may differ with appropriate vocational guidance. On average, 12,40% of the students decided which profession is suitable for them and 37,22% decided which professions are not suitable for them. 50.38% of the students will be able to change their occupational choices with appropriate vocational guidance. As a result of the vocational guidance to be made according to the opinions of the students, the occupations that the high school students can have are C group 75.85% in the first place; J group 74.31% and H group 69.23%.

Table 12: Whether occupational groups are appropriate for students or not

	Suitable	Suitable with Professional Guidance	Not Suitable
A	5,54	41,08	53,38
В	6,62	42,31	51,07
C	15,09	60,76	24,15
D	14,31	46,15	39,54
E	14,77	51,69	33,54
F	7,54	52,46	40,00
G	12,15	56,47	31,38
Н	15,23	54,00	30,77
I	6,93	50,46	42,61
J	25,85	48,46	25,69
Average	12,40	50,38	37,22

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The order of the profession group that students of Science High School perceived as suitable for them was determined as J group (25,85%), H group (15,23%) and C group (15,09%). When we analyze these occupational groups, students first think that the engineering group is appropriate for the profession, then the health group and the legal profession. When the average of all occupational groups is taken, it is seen that 12,40% of the students decide which professions can be suitable for them. 37.22% of the students have decided which professions are not suitable for them. Providing support and proper orientation to the students of the science high school with respect to their age can change the order of their professional preferences. When the order of preferences is analyzed, the ranking of the first three groups (C, J and H) varies within themselves. There was no significant difference (1.54%) between the C and J groups when C group (75.85%), J group (74.31%) and H group (69.23%) were considered. There may be shifts among students' preferences in all three occupational groups. As a result, school administration and guidance teachers have great responsibilities in directing students.

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